

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

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FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2875

AMEMBASSY ROME

USUN NEW YORK 405

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE YAOUNDE 0951

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, SWEL, CM

SUBJECT: AFDROUGHT: GURC REQUEST FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE

REF: YAOUNDE 0386

ROME FOR FODAG

ABIDJAN FOR KOEHRING (RDO/Y)

1. AS FORESHADOWED IN REFTEL MIN OF PLAN HAS NOW INFORMED AMBASSADOR, BY LETTER OF MARCH 26, THAT GURC SEEKS 32,000 TONS OF FOOD ASSISTANCE TO MEET URGENT NOOD NEEDS IN THE NORTH PROVINCE. MINISTER STATES FOOD AID WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED BY NEW CEREALS OFFICE WHICH GOVERNMENT EXPECTS TO STABLISH SHORTLY WITH UNDP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. ALSO STATES THAT GURC IS ELABORATING A LONG TERM PROGRAM TO MEET DROUGHT PROBLEM, RELATING PRIMARILY TO THE UTILIZATION OF SURFACE WATER PARTICULARLY IN BENOUE AND LOGONE VALLEYS, THE BUILDING OF WATER CATCHMENTS AND THE USE OF UNDERGROUND WATER.

2. CHART ATTACHED TO LETTER SHOWS FOOD PRODUCTION

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IN NORTH PROVINCE OF 263,000 TONS WITH CONSUMPTION AT

317,000 TONS LEAVING A DEFICIT THIS YEAR OF 44,000 TONS
AGAINST WHICH 32,000 TONS BEING REQUESTED. DEPARTMENTS
MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED ARE DIAMARE, MARGUI-WANDALA AND
LOGONE-ET-CHARI. GURC REQUEST BREAKS DOWN AS FOLLOWS:

MILLET AND SORGHUM	10,000 TONS
CORN	5,000 TONS
WHEAT FLOUR	3,000 TONS
WHEAT SEMOLINA	7,000 TONS
CORN SEMOLINA	7,000 TONS

3. THE MAGNITUDE OF FOOD PROBLEM IS OBVIOUSLY NOT ON SAME
CAL AS IN NEIGHBORING CHAD OR NIGER BUT IS OBVIOUSLY CAUSING
CONCERN TO GURC AS DEFICIT IN MEETING FOOD REQUIREMENTS OF AREA
HAS BEEN STEADILY INCREASING DURING PAST THREE YEARS (FROM 10,000
TO 22,000 TO 44,000 TONS). WFP REP IS NOW IN NORTH
PROVINCE TO CHECK ON CURRENT SITUATION AND WE WILL BE IN A BETTER
POSITION TO COMMENT ON GURC REQUEST UPON HIS RETURN.

4. MINISTER'S REQUEST HAS BEEN SENT TO A NUMBER OF EMBASSIES AS
WELL AS TO FED AND UNDP. I THINK IT BEHOOVES US TO WORK WITH
OTHER POTENTIAL DONORS TO ASSURE THAT GURC REQUEST RECEIVES
A FAIR HEARING, AND THAT WE COLLABORATE IN DEVELOPING A COMMON
BODY OF FACTS ON WHICH TO MAKE JUDGMENTS. I WOULD HOPE
THAT EXPERIENCE VGAINED IN SIX SAHEL COUNTRIES AND WHICH
NOW UNDOUBTEDLY BEING DISCUSSED IN ABIDJAN COM MEETING
MIGHT BE HELPFUL GUIDE TO PROBLEM HERE AND THAT RDO
KOEHRING NOW IN ABIDJAN WILL OE ABLE TO BRING BACK SOME
THOUGHTS ON COORDINATED APPROACH TO CAMEROONIAN
PROBLEM.
MOORE

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